

Coco Newton, MPH, RD, CCN  
Lifetime Nutrition, LLC

46701 Commerce Center Dr.  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
Phone: 734.233.3075 Fax: 734.233.3076  
E-Mail: coco@coconewton.com  
Web: www.coconewton.com

## Testimony for Senate Regulatory Reform Committee June 5, 2014

I am a Registered Dietitian and a 33 year member of the Michigan Dietetic Association, renamed the Michigan Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (MAND) in 2012.

I am also a Certified Clinical Nutritionist, an advanced credential that the dietetic association excludes for licensure.

I served on the Michigan Board of Dietetics & Nutrition from Fall 2007 through Fall 2013 throughout the rule-making process. Only Registered Dietitians could serve as professional members, so the rules were biased towards preserving the exclusivity of the RD.

From 1986-1988 I was the Licensure Chair for the Michigan Dietetic Association. This quote from our professional journal (JADA April 1984) was the motivation that still is true today:

*"Like other professionals, dietitians can justify the enactment of licensure laws because licensing affords the opportunity to protect dietitians from interference in their field by other practitioners. Licensure also can protect dietitians by limiting the number of practitioners through restrictions imposed by academic, experience, and examination requirements. This protection provides a competitive advantage and therefore is economically beneficial for dietitians."*

I represent the nutrition professionals that are competitively prohibited from practicing by the existing licensure law (PA333). These nutrition professionals have credentials, certifications, experience and continuing education in nutrition. We need their businesses here in Michigan and their talents for a healthier state.

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